

The following information will assist you in welcoming home CAAT3, Anti-Terrorism Battalion from their tour in Iraq

Flight Windows (as of 15 February 2006)

Main Body is scheduled to arrive at Camp Lejeune approximately (4 – 6 March 2006). Family and friends can meet the return of the Main Body at the Anti-Terrorism Battalion Barracks French Creek area (see below for directions). We will continue to update this information as it becomes available.

Return Dates

Return dates are passed as “windows.” This means you will first receive a block of potential return days, (usually 3-4), and the actual return date could be on any one of those days. As the time draws closer, the flight schedules and manifests are finalized. When this happens, you will receive notification of what day your Marine will return and you will be given an approximate time. Please keep in mind that days and times are subject to change as weather conditions, flight schedules/availability, and transportation are not necessarily controllable.

There will be three places to obtain the latest information on dates and times of return; the battalion website and the **Key Volunteer Family Readiness Officer, POC: 1stLt Christian at (910-450-6172), email: Lonnie.christian@usmc.mil; Key Volunteer Family Readiness SNCO, POC: GySgt Griffin at (910-450-6171), email: earl.griffin1@usmc.mil.** The battalion will update information as it becomes available. It is suggested that you call this number the day of your Marines expected return to make sure the timeline has not changed.

Travel Plans & Transportation

Airports

When scheduling air travel, keep in mind that there are several airports within driving distance of Jacksonville/Camp Lejeune. Raleigh Durham International (RDU) is approximately 2 hours from Jacksonville. Wilmington International (ILM) is approximately 1 hour and Jacksonville International (OAJ) is approximately 30 minutes from Camp Lejeune.

Taxi

There are several Taxi services in the area that will provide shuttle services to and from the area airports. The approximate one-way price depends on which airport you are flying in from and where in Jacksonville you are staying. Raleigh- Durham International approx. \$200.00, Wilmington Airport approx. \$70.00, and Jacksonville Airport approx. \$26.00. Anti-Terrorism Battalion is not endorsing any particular Taxi service. Listed below are a few for you to choose from. They are not in any order, nor have they been compared for competitive pricing.

- Dependable Taxi of Jacksonville (910) 347-2700
- Tarheel Taxi (910) 455-2222
- Yellow Cab Company (910) 353-1111

Rental Car

You may find a rental car is more suited to your needs while you are in town. There are a few tips we recommend you keep in mind when making a reservation. It is a good idea to ensure vehicle availability during the redeployment “windows.” Check your homeowners or renters insurance policies to see if you are covered or if you need to purchase insurance through the rental agency. Make sure the agency checks and notes any damages already on the vehicle before you sign for it!

Hotels

For those of you traveling from out of town we have included several hotel names and numbers. Recognize that this is not an endorsement of any particular hotel; it is simply to make your planning a little easier. Remember to ask for military rates (if you are a spouse with a

current military ID card), AAA rates and AARP rates if these apply (typically a 10% discount). If you have a large party of people or can coordinate with others who will be in town, you may qualify for a "block of rooms" at a special rate. Be aware that some hotels increase rates based on weekend or weekday stays and may opt not to honor discounts when capacity is near full. Make your reservations early; you can always cancel days you may not need.

Best Western 910-455-4100

Single room rates: \$55.99; Suite room rates: 179.95 (10% off for Military, AAA and AARP)

**Weekend rates are higher

Cancellation policy: 24 hours in advance

Location: Hwy 17 (near Waffle House) Approx. 15-20 minutes from Main Gate

Comfort Suites 910-346-8900

Single room rate: \$89.95 (10% off for military, AAA and AARP)

Cancellation policy: by 6pm day of arrival

Location: Hwy 17 (across from Wal-Mart) Approx. 10 minutes from Main Gate

Days Inn 910-347-5131

Single room rates: \$59.00 (10% off for Military, AAA and AARP) ** Weekend rates may be higher

Cancellation policy: 24 hours in advance

Location: Hwy.17 and Henderson Rd. Approx. 15-20 minutes from Main Gate

Fairfield Inn by Marriott 910-938-4499

Single room rate: \$79.00 (10% off for military, AAA and AARP)

Cancellation policy: by 6pm day of arrival

Location: Western Ext. (behind Circuit City) Approx. 10-15 minutes from Main Gate

Hampton Inn 910-347-6500

Single room rates: \$69.00 2 or more \$79.00 (10% off for Military, AAA and AARP)

Cancellation policy: by 6pm day of arrival

Location: Western Blvd. (near Wal-Mart) Approx. 10-15 minutes from Main Gate

Military ID required for the following:

*****Onslow Beach Recreation Area (all ranks) (910) 450-7502**

Visit www.mccslejeune.com and click on Onslow Beach or type in Onslow Beach from an internet search engine to view information on Beach Cabins, Trailers and Camping Facilities.

*****Hospitality Inn (all ranks) 451-3041 Space A only**

*****Staff Quarters (SNCOs Only) 453-9153**

Reservations are Space A and rates depend on rank.

***** YOU MUST HAVE A CURRENT MILITARY ID TO STAY AT ANY OF THESE FACILITIES!**

Homecoming Day

The arrival of **CAAT3, ATBn** will be an exciting but potentially a stressful day. Plan ahead! Give yourself plenty of time to travel on/around Camp Lejeune. During certain times of the day, (early morning, lunch, and late afternoon), the traffic on and off base can be heavy.

Directions:

CAAT3: Follow the signs from the entrance gates that state "**ATBn Homecoming**"! These signs will lead you to the Anti-Terrorism Battalion area (homecoming reception area) in the French Creek Area. There will be a designated parking area for Family and Friends.

Directions from Main Gate: Enter Camp Lejeune main gate traveling south on Holcomb Blvd. Stay on Holcomb Blvd until you reach the General John A Lejeune Traffic Circle. Enter the traffic circle, and make the third exit off the traffic circle to the South. Follow McHugh Blvd until you reach Daly Street and make a RIGHT. At end of Daly Street you will reach another traffic

circle. Take the second exit and go straight until you reach a parking lot. The Barracks will be on your right. (FC 304, 305, and 306. Approximately 15 minute drive).

Vehicle Pass: If you are coming from out of town and you do not have a military base sticker on your vehicle, you should get a vehicle pass from base before the homecoming day. Vehicle passes are obtained at the Main Gate to Camp Lejeune and can be written to last for several days. To get a pass you'll need:

- proof of insurance
- driver's license
- car registration

Facilities/Food: There will be some light refreshments and soft drinks provided both for the incoming Marines and the families at the barracks. The reception area is in the parking lot of Building 503. While on Base, you will be able to eat at any of the food establishments – Burger King, Domino's Pizza, Subway, and several "deli" style counters inside the Mainside PX. All of these establishments are located off Holcomb Blvd, the main road through Base. However, you will not be able to purchase gas or items from the "7 day stores" (gas stations) without a military ID card. If you have small children, you may want to consider packing a change of clothes (accidents happen), extra juice or bottled milk and extra diapers/wipes (remember to prepare for the possibility of delays).

Welcome Home Signs: You can hang up "Welcome Home" signs for your loved one at the Barracks area. However, you will need to bring your own materials and what goes up, must come down. It has long been a tradition for families to hang signs outside of the Main Gate on Hwy 24 on "the fence" – if your not familiar with this, trust us, you'll know it when you see it!

Your Marine/Sailor

There are a few things to keep in mind when welcoming home your Marine. He has been working 7 days a week with little down time and may find it hard to relax at first. He may not be ready to share his experiences – don't push for information. Let him take the lead in what and when he wants to talk about his deployment. His sleep cycles and patterns may be disrupted – unable to sleep, sleeping at odd hours or for long periods. He may experience nightmares, irritability, jumpiness or depression. All of these can be symptoms of Combat Stress and are normal. As a result of Combat Stress, he may isolate himself, develop conflicts with people or abuse alcohol. He may seek out the company of Marines whom he was deployed with over that of family and friends. Again, all of these signs and symptoms are normal and can take 3-5 months to subside. When these signs continue beyond 3-5 months or increase in duration and/or frequency then it may be time to consider getting help. There are several services available to Marines, which are designed specifically to address such problems. All of these organizations are strictly confidential.

- CREDO – 450-1668/1671 Offers retreats that can help with transition from Combat to home.
- Family Counseling Center (910) 451-2876 individual or group counseling opportunities available.
- MCCS One Source 1-800-869-0278 or www.mccsonesource.com User ID: Marines Password: Semper Fi

This information is not intended to scare you or make you overly concerned, but is intended to give you a realistic idea of things you might encounter! Everyone has experienced a lot over the past several months and working to understand one another can only make for a smoother transition period.

Finally, each Marine and Sailor will be granted block leave following this deployment. Block leave will commence approximately **16-29 March 2006**. Prior to block leave, every Marine and Sailor must complete mandatory administrative training and paperwork. This will occur approximately 3 – 4 days after returning from Iraq and should only last a week.